

July 30, 2001

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington DC 20554

Re: Consumer Information Bureau Seeks Additional Comment on the Provision of
Improved Telecommunications Relay Service, CC Docket No. 98-67

Dear Ms. Salas:

RE: voice initiated calls to IP Relay. I request that the Commission require IP Relay to make voice initiation of IP calls available, if initiation of IP Relay calls either over the public switched telephone network or over Internet telephone is technically feasible.

The following comment follows-up my first set of comments submitted earlier today. After sending my comments I thought of another reason why IP Relay should be accessible by voice-initiated calls:

Many people who use STS Relay initiate their call to the relay by voice because some STS users cannot readily use a keyboard because physical limitations. Internet phone users enjoy free long distance or rates that are significantly less expensive than traditional telephone service, as are many wireless voice long distance rates. Voice-call initiated access to IP Relay should be available to anyone who wishes to take advantage of the far less expensive long distance rates using a web or wireless phone. Such access to IP Relay will not only provide functional equivalency but also economic benefits to users. People with able bodies who may wish to use IP Relay to call someone who depends on STS or TTY relay, should also be able to enjoy the economic and ease-of-use benefits of voice-initiated access to IP Relay. For this reason I strongly urge the Commission to mandate voice call access to IP Relay, at the very least voice-Internet phone-access to IP Relay.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this proceeding,
Katherine Keller
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